PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARIAT

Reviews the report on the working of the Public Works Department pertaining to Roads and Buildings for the year 1944-45.

READ—

Report on the working of the Public Works Department pertaining to Roads and Buildings for the year 1944-45 received from the Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings with his letter No. 3570, dated 1st November 1945.

ORDER No. P. W. 7985-8005—R. & B. 78-45-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 13TH MAY 1946.

Recorded.

2. *Rajasevasakta* N. V. Bapat, B.A., C.E., continued as Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings throughout the year except for a period of 15 days from 21st May 1945 when he proceeded on privilege leave. During this period, Mr. M. Narasimhaiya, B.A., C.E., M.I.E. (Ind.), Chief Engineer for Irrigation, was in charge of the Office of the Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings also.

Dr. O. H. Koenigsberger, Dipl. Eng., Dr. Eng. (Berlin), continued to be the Architect throughout the year except for a period of 20 days from 9th June 1945 when he proceeded on privilege leave. During this period, Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao, G.D. Arch., A.I.I.A., Acting Assistant Architect, was in charge of the Office of the Architect.

Grant and Outlay.—The final grant for the several works, the execution of which was entrusted to the Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings), was Rs. 1,12,59,696 as against the grant of Rs. 67,70,880 during 1943-44. An outlay of Rs. 1,14,04,603 was incurred during the year, including the expenditure on contribution works and those pertaining to the District Boards. The expenditure was more than the grant by Rs. 1,44,907.

The aggregate grant from State Funds for works proper was Rs. 75,95,500 against which an outlay of Rs. 70,23,972 was incurred resulting in a lapse of Rs. 5,71,528.

Buildings.—The expenditure on buildings amounted to Rs. 13,66,441, of which Rs. 10,53,093 was on original works and Rs. 2,57,775 on repairs.

About 900 drawings were prepared by the Architect's Section at an average of three drawings per design in addition to the preparation and scrutiny of designs for several buildings of all the departments. Several important major schemes under Town Planning were also dealt with.

The important building works completed during the year or nearing completion and in progress were the following:—

Construction of living quarters in the Provincial Reserve Police Lines at Bangalore, Tuberculosis Sanatorium near the Mental Hospital, Bangalore, Sri Jayachamarajendra Institute of Indian Medicine at Bangalore, Sri Jayachamarajendra Victory Hall at Bangalore, Sri Jayachamarajendra Occupational Institute at Bangalore, Transformer Hall in the Government Electric Factory at Bangalore, Factory Type Machine Shed in the Government Printing Press at Bangalore, New Infantry Lines at Mysore, Canopy over the statue of His Highness the late Maharaja of Mysore, Extension of the Administrative Block of P. K. Sanatorium at Mysore, Construction of Nurses' quarters attached to Sri Krishnarajendra Hospital at Mysore, General Hospital at Tumkur, Infantry Lines at Bhadravati, Food Godowns at Shimoga, Sagar and Bhadravati, Sri Chamarajendra Hospital at Hassan, Col. Crawford Hospital at Saklespur, and the Radio Broadcasting Station at Mysore.

The progress on building works was impeded to a certain extent by the prevalence of war conditions, resulting in the scarcity and high cost of building materials and dearth of both skilled and unskilled labour.

Donations to the extent of Rs. 1,65,596 were received from philanthropists during the year on the construction of public buildings, such as, hospitals, dispensaries and maternity homes.

Communications—Roads and Bridges.—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 44,74,909, of which a sum of Rs. 37,69,906 was spent on ordinary and special repairs of roads and bridges.

A total length of 2,675 9/16 miles of State Fund Roads was maintained during the year, of which 2,243½ miles are metalled roads. The expenditure incurred on annual maintenance and special repairs of these roads was Rs. 20,88,9 The average cost of maintenance works out to Rs. 781 per mile.

A total length of 1,788½ miles of Marketing roads was maintained, of which 1,586 3/8 miles are metalled roads. The outlay incurred on annual maintenance of these roads was Rs. 6,04,912. The average cost per mile is Rs. 338.

The total length of District Fund Roads maintained during the year was 1,810¾ miles, of which 1,222 3/8 miles are metalled roads. The outlay incurred on annual maintenance and special repairs of these roads was Rs. 2,91,932. The average cost of maintenance amounted to Rs. 161 per mile.

Owing to abnormal increase in traffic, particularly of military vehicles on all the roads especially round Bangalore, the roads got deteriorated considerably and due to the restricted supply of bitumen it was not possible to maintain the tarred surface to the required standard. The priority roads of strategic importance were taken up for reconditioning at a total cost of Rs. 2,117 lakhs (half the cost being borne by the Government of India) and the work was in progress.

Cement Concreting of Roads.—A length of 152 miles of important trunk roads has been arranged to be cement-concreted on a five-year programme. The work was in progress on the Bangalore-Tumkur road and on the Bangalore-Mysore road, the total length concreted on both the roads being about 10 miles.

Aerodromes.—The formation of an Aerodrome near Mandakally on Bangalore-Nilgiri Road was completed in all respects.

Inter-village Roads.—A total length of 457 miles had been formed to end of the year under Inter-village Communications.

Bridges.—The important bridge works that were in progress during the year were the following:—

Construction of (1) a bridge across the Bhadra river near Kalasa, (2) bridge across the Bhadra river near Holehonnur, and (3) bridge across Nelligundihalla on Jaipur-Sringeri Road.

The construction of a bridge across the Arkavathi river near Kankanhalli was sanctioned and the foundation stone for the bridge was graciously laid by His Highness the Maharaja in December 1944.

Bureau of Sanitary Engineering.—Twenty-six works relating to drainage were in progress, the outlay incurred thereon being Rs. 3,12,080. Thirty-nine items relating to sanitary fittings to buildings were also completed with a total outlay of Rs. 36,179.

Revenue.—The revenue realised during the year under XIX Civil Works was Rs. 1,29,448 in respect of rent of buildings, staging bungalow fees, etc.

Condition of Accounts.—The condition of accounts in the several divisions of the Mysore Circle and in the Cement Concreting and Roads Conditioning Divisions was fairly satisfactory. The accounts works in Shimoga, Kadur and Chitaldrug Divisions were in heavy arrears due to inadequate and inexperienced staff. Steps should be taken to clear the arrears early and bring the accounts in the Divisions up-to-date.

Schedule of Rates.—In the Mysore and Shimoga Circles, revised schedule of rates were got up and approved by the Chief Engineer.

Work of the Department.—In spite of several adverse circumstances on account of war conditions, the work of the department continued to be generally satisfactory.

K. D. JOSHI, *Public Works Secy.*

Printed by the Superintendent at the Government Press, Bangalore